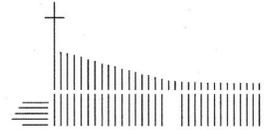


# Incarnation Image



Incarnation Lutheran Church

AUGUST 2021

Dear Pastor,

I recently read an article in a church publication about the theme for worship this month. Here is a summary. Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press Jesus for a sign of his power. Most likely this sign they wanted would be daily manna such as Israel received in the wilderness. But in response Jesus offers himself instead. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him. My question is simply this: What is meant by this bread, how do we receive this bread, and how do we share this bread?

Dear Parishioner,

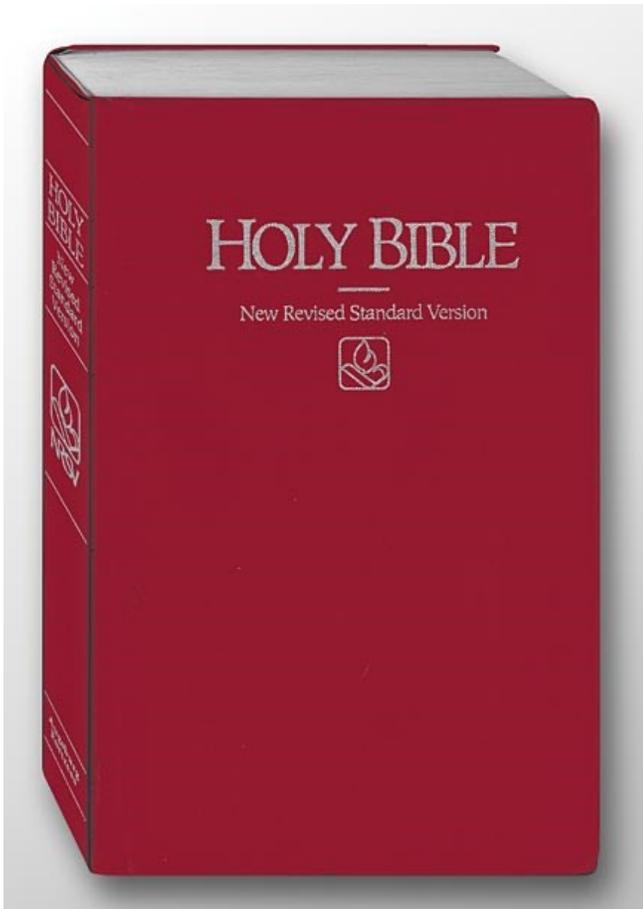
This is a very involved question that you put to me. But I will give it my best shot. The wandering Israelites were always provided with enough quail and manna to have their fill. Although extra stored manna spoiled except on the Sabbath, we today are used to preserving and hoarding large amounts of food simply for convenience' sake. Yet, purchasing fresh food today on a regular basis is a luxury many cannot afford. Some cities are working hard to transform this pattern through urban agriculture. These questions arise: 1) What sustainable food practices are we employing in our congregation? 2) How might we encourage awareness and participation in food sustainability both locally and globally? We also have answers to these questions as we gather food pantry items, contribute to World Hunger, and make gardens available for local planters.

The fictional Willy Wonka created an everlasting Gobstopper for children who had very little pocket money. They could buy one piece of candy, and it would last a whole lifetime. We often look for quick fixes like this when it comes to alleviating hunger and poverty. Jesus the bread of life, however, looks for deeper giving than simply feeding the hungry on occasion. In order to ensure that others "will never be hungry" and "never be thirsty" (John 6:35), addressing poverty, racism, and other underlying roots of hunger will give enduring life to the world. The true bread from heaven tastes of peace and justice for all people. That true bread is Jesus.

We also tend to think of food as having a short shelf life, meant for immediate enjoyment as well as for sustenance. So, the question arises: In what ways can food connect us to eternity? In many cultural traditions, food is offered to the ancestors as part of a ritual of remembrance for the dead. During holy communion we receive food that connects us to eternity. We receive the bread of life, the body and blood of Jesus the Christ. It is a meal we share with our deceased ancestors and with future descendants. It is a meal we will someday all share together in paradise up yonder.

Jesus wanted the multitude of people who came to him to understand that their perceived physical need was not sustainable. Why? Because life is sustained in Christ alone. Yet Paul's letter to the Ephesians describes the diverse gifts of Christ's body that are joined together with Christ as the head. We are united and fed by Christ, but we don't all have the same talent and abilities. There is strength when our unique gifts enrich and support the other. We can depend on another's strength when we lack that particular gift. How can the different gifts of those in our community play a role in caring for ecosystems and food distribution both locally and globally? Jesus has the answer. In fact, Jesus the bread of life offered to us in Holy Communion is the answer. He gives us strength and ability, to provide for others. So, my friends accept Christ's invitation to eat heartily and drink heartily.

Pastor Ralph



## A NEW ADDITION TO OUR WORSHIP AND STUDY SPACES— THE HOLY BIBLE!

As we begin the transition from summer to fall, the Incarnation Church Council sets its eyes towards further reinvigoration of our worship space and our gatherings together. With these thoughts in mind, it is the desire of the Church Council to outfit our pews with copies of The Holy Bible.

The Bible that has been chosen (pictured on the left) is printed by Augsburg Fortress, the official publishing house of the ELCA. It is a durable, hardcover edition bound in a familiar “cranberry” colored material, designed to match aesthetically with the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal which is already present in our pews, and uses the New

Revised Standard translation of the Holy Scriptures.

Bibles can be used by worshipers as part of their pre-service prayer time as well as to view an alternate translation of the days assigned scripture readings and for reference during the day’s Sermon. These Bibles will also make their way into the classrooms and fellowship hall as part of future Bible Studies and Confirmation classes at Incarnation.

Bibles will be purchased with the help of the congregation through your donations to a new Pew Bible Fund. Each Bible will cost \$17.50. Individual donors will be provided the option to have memorial or honorary messages placed on the inside of the front cover of each Bible that they donate, once the bibles have been obtained. If you wish to contribute to the Pew Bible Fund, you can do so through the weekly offering by filling out the short form below and including it with your donation and envelope, or by adding your own note indicating the number of Bibles you wish to fund.

---

### Incarnation Lutheran Church Pew Bible Fund Donation

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER OF BIBLES I/WE WISH TO FUND:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Incarnation Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting July 2021**

	Account	June 30 2021	December 31 2020	December 31 2019
<b>Cash Balances</b>				
General Fund Savings	S	(\$3,224.20)	\$1,474.36	\$7,773.78
General Fund Checking	C	(\$287.91)	\$2,319.31	\$113.75
Total Cash Savings/Checking		(\$3,512.11)	\$3,793.67	\$7,887.53
Memorial Fund Savings (\$919.32 Designated)	M	\$6,835.61	\$7,094.83	\$7,090.17
Anderson Memorial Fund	M	\$0.00	\$2,990.00	\$0.00
Kesy Memorial Fund	M	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Watkins Memorial Fund	M	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Capital Fund Savings	CF	\$11,518.62	\$10,518.23	\$10,270.08
Sunday School Fund (Snell Memorial)	M	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Outreach	S	\$38.89	\$38.89	\$38.89
Seasons of the Church Banner Fund	S	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Quilter's Fund	S	\$59.34	\$59.34	\$59.34
Womens Group Fund	S	\$410.21	\$410.21	\$410.21
Library Fund	M	\$329.72	\$329.72	\$329.72
Emergency Fund	S	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Technology Fund	S	\$1,261.80	\$1,261.80	\$0.00
<b>Special Events &amp; Fundraisers</b>				
Rally Day Picnic Fund - (T Shirt Sale 2018)	S	\$240.95	\$240.95	\$240.95
Fundraisers - Garden Ministry	S	\$0.00	\$47.91	\$47.91
Fundraisers - Property Improvement Project Fund	S	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fundraisers - Property Improvement Project Fund (Parking Lot)	S	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fundraisers - Property Improvement Project Fund (Sign)	S	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Checking, Savings &amp; Fund Balances</b>		<b>\$17,733.03</b>	<b>\$27,485.55</b>	<b>\$26,924.80</b>
Checking		(\$287.91)	\$2,319.31	\$113.75
Savings		(\$713.01)	\$4,033.46	\$9,071.08
Memorial		\$7,215.33	\$7,474.55	\$7,469.89
Capital		\$11,518.62	\$10,518.23	\$10,270.08
<b>Mortgage Note Balance</b>				
<b>Nicolet Bank Due 5/18/2025 (4.75%)</b>		<b>\$59,114.68</b>	<b>\$67,514.06</b>	<b>\$82,537.86</b>
Payment 18th of the Month \$1,600				
Credit Available		<b>\$13,000.00</b>		
<b>PPP Loan Program</b>				
		<b>\$0.00</b>		
<b>SBA Disaster Advance</b>				
		<b>\$0.00</b>		
General Fund Deposits 2021		\$45,614.00		
General Fund Deposits 2020		\$43,629.82		
<b>2021 vs 2020</b>		<b>\$1,984.18</b>	<b>4.55%</b>	

7/6/2021 2:43PM

**No Church Council meeting was held in July for a "Summer Vacation."**  
**The next Church Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 10 at 6:30PM.**

**WORSHIP LESSON READERS**

August 1 – Bonnie Zima

August 8 – Sandy Krakow

September 5 – Bonnie Zima

August 15 – Jean Watson

September 12 – Sandy Krakow

August 22 – Ken Anderson

September 19 – Jean Watson

August 29 – Karen Nantelle

September 26 – Ken Anderson

## **INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

920 499-2011  
incarnationgb@gmail.com  
2071 Ninth Street  
Green Bay, WI 54304

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# **MUSIC JAM!**

You are invited to join some of Incarnation's musicians and talented volunteers for a **MUSIC JAM** on *Wed., August 11 & Wed., August 25* from 7-8:30PM.

Join us in singing and dancing to familiar songs from the past. Bring your neighbors and friends. Please bring a plate of cookies or bars to share to enjoy during the music and fun!

**HOPE TO SEE YOU!**